

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11, 13-16, 18-19, 21, 23-26 and 28-29 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8 and 23 are the independent claims. Claims 1-3, 6-9, 13-15, 18, 23-25 and 28-29 are currently amended. Claims 5, 10, 12, 17, 20, 22 and 27 are cancelled.

SUMMARY OF EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Initially, Applicants wishes to thank Examiner Lovel for her time during the telephone interview of August 12, 2009 conducted between the Applicant's Representatives and the Examiner, the content of which is summarized below.

A proposed amendment incorporating the subject matter of claim 5 into independent claim 1 was discussed during the course of the interview. The Examiner acknowledged that the amendment to claim 1 overcomes the current prior art rejections.

As shown in the preceding section, the present response includes claim 1 amendment proposed during the interview and somewhat similar amendments to independent claims 8 and 23.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Entry of the Amendment is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not present any additional claims without canceling the corresponding number of final rejected claims; and/or c) places the application in better form for an appeal, if an appeal is necessary. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Furthermore, during the August 12 interview the Examiner indicated that the amendment incorporating the subject matter of substantially original claim 5 (claim 5 was amended to correct a minor typographical mistake) into independent claim 1 overcomes the current prior art rejections. As such, claim 5 as originally filed contained subject matter allowable over the current prior art rejections and should not have been rejected in the previous Office Action mailed November 25, 2008. Applicants submit that because allowable subject matter of claim 5 is incorporated into independent claim 1, the amendment raises no new issues and respectfully request the Examiner enter the amendment.

For somewhat similar reasons, the amendment to independent claims 8 and 23 raises no new issues and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-29 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Publication 2002/0087359 to Bocionek in view of US Patent Publication 2002/0188896 to Filteau et al.

This rejection is moot with respect to claims 5, 10, 12, 17, 20, 22 and 27 in view of the cancellation of the claims and is traversed with respect to claims 1-4, 6-9, 11, 13-16, 18-19, 21, 23-26 and 28-29 for the reasons given below.

As discussed and agreed upon during the August 12, 2009 interview, the amendment to independent claim 1 overcomes the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103. Independent claims 8 and 23 have been amended similarly.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of independent claims 1, 8 and 23, as well as all claims depending therefrom, be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

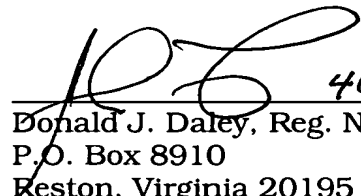
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

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